

Whereas, a cease-fire and dialogue between the parties are essential to preventing full scale inter-ethnic warfare in Macedonia; and

Whereas, a unified and independent Macedonia is in United States national security interests: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages a lasting cease-fire, and calls upon the Government of Macedonia to ensure the protection of the lives and property of all citizens of Macedonia;

(2) commends the political parties in Macedonia for seeking a political solution to the current crisis, and encourages a continued commitment to dialogue by those parties;

(3) calls upon the Government of Macedonia to address the concerns of all citizens of Macedonia in a fair and equitable manner;

(4) recognizes that the United States and other countries must assume a more pro-active role in aiding the Government of Macedonia and the political parties in Macedonia to secure and maintain a lasting solution to the conflict; and

(5) pledges its support for additional United States assistance for programs and activities that contribute to reconstruction in Macedonia and a resolution of inter-ethnic tensions in that country.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator LEAHY, Senator BIDEN, and I submit this resolution as an indication of our support and encouragement for continued negotiations between ethnic-Albanian and Macedonian political parties. A unified and independent Macedonia is in the best interests of all the citizens of Macedonia, neighboring countries, and the United States.

The news this morning of renewed fighting in the wake of stalled talks is deeply troubling. Continued armed conflict serves only to exacerbate an already difficult and tense situation. American leadership and engagement is essential in resolving the current crisis. We must be clear: a lasting cease-fire and peace can only be secured through dialogue and disarmament.

Frustrations on both sides of the negotiating table are growing daily. However difficult and dire the situation may seem today, it will only get worse if the talks completely collapse. The stakes are indeed high, and call for cooler heads and responsible, and responsive, leadership.

Make no mistake, the long standing and legitimate grievances of ethnic-Albanians must be on the table for discussion, and successful resolution. While the rights and lives of all Macedonian citizens must be protected and guaranteed, Macedonian officials must be particularly vigilant in ensuring that ethnic-Albanians are not targeted for retribution, as has unfortunately been the case in the past. The foundation of peace and stability is nothing less than equality for all citizens of Macedonia under the law and genuine respect for democratic processes, institutions, and the rule of law.

We hope that all parties at the negotiation table in Skopje understand that in their hands rests the fate of the country. We stand ready to support U.S.-funded programs and activities that contribute to the reconstruction and a resolution of inter-ethnic tensions in Macedonia.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor this resolution on Macedonia, with my friend from Kentucky, Senator MCCONNELL.

Macedonia stands out as the country in the Balkans which, until recently, avoided the bloodshed and destruction that engulfed the rest of the former Yugoslavia throughout much of the past decade. In Macedonia, ethnic Macedonians and Albanians have lived peacefully together.

But recently, a small number of Albanian fighters have resorted to violence. Some have demanded a separate Albanian state. Others are interested in nothing more than control over smuggling routes in and out of Macedonia. Still others are from Kosovo, and are using Macedonia as a staging ground to focus international attention on their grievances in Kosovo.

But there are others who have taken up arms who represent the aspirations of the larger community of ethnic Albanians in Macedonia, who have been the victims of discrimination in their own country, or what is now Macedonia, for generations.

Albanians comprise approximately one third of the population of Macedonia, but they hold only a fraction of government positions. There are no public institutions of higher learning where Albanian language is taught or spoken. Albanians are not recognized in Macedonia's Constitution.

The ethnic Albanian's grievances are legitimate, and must be addressed. The ethnic Macedonians also have rights, which must be respected.

Recently, the leaders of a coalition government, representing ethnic Macedonian and Albanian political parties, have met to try to find a political settlement of the conflict. Both sides have acknowledged that there is no military solution, and that a civil war would be devastating for the country. But after a week of negotiations they have made little progress, and the talks have reportedly reached an impasse. That is unacceptable. There is no other way to avoid a wider war than through dialogue. The United States has offered support, but not as vigorously as I believe it should. The leaders of the European Union have also invested considerable time and energy in search of peace.

NATO is prepared to assist in implementing a peace agreement, as it should, but the parties in Macedonia need to recognize that the United States will not intervene militarily, nor will we finance a war on behalf of either side. To think otherwise would be both unrealistic and pointless. The United States would support a political settlement that upholds the rights of all citizens of Macedonia, regardless of ethnicity, and which preserves the political and geographical integrity of the country.

This resolution calls attention to the importance of the situation in Macedonia, for the Balkans region, for Europe, and for the United States. This is

a solvable problem, and it would be unforgivable if, what is still a relatively low intensity, localized conflict, erupted into full-scale civil war. The administration needs to give this precarious situation far more attention than it has thus far. We have an ambassador there who is doing his best, but it is not enough. Higher level diplomacy is needed, and it is needed urgently.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 54—AUTHORIZING THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL TO BE USED ON JULY 26, 2001, FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO THE ORIGINAL 29 NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 54

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 810. Mr. GRAMM (for himself, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 810. Mr. GRAMM (for himself, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; as follows:

On page 140, lines 11 and 12, strike "issuer, or plan sponsor—" and insert "or issuer—".

Beginning on page 144, strike line 16 and all that follows through line 23 on page 148, and insert the following:

"(5) EXCLUSION OF EMPLOYERS AND OTHER PLAN SPONSORS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to excluding certain physicians, other health care professionals, and certain hospitals from liability under paragraph (1), paragraph (1)(A) does not create any liability on the part of an employer or other plan sponsor (or on the part of an employee of such an employer or sponsor acting within the scope of employment).

"(B) DEFINITION.—In subparagraph (A), the term "employer" means an employer maintaining the plan involved that is acting, serving, or functioning as a fiduciary, trustee or plan administrator, including—

"(i) an employer described in section 3(16)(B)(i) with respect to a plan maintained by a single employer; and

"(ii) one or more employers or employee organizations described in section